

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A digital apparatus for reproducing a digital video representative signal stored on a recorded medium connected to a receiving device including a decoder, said apparatus comprising:

means for processing said digital video representative signal stored on the recorded medium to produce at an output a compressed digital video signal bit stream for decoding by the decoder;

a generator generating a status message signal indicative of an operating mode of said apparatus; and,

a display message combiner having a first input coupled to said message signal and a second input receiving a video signal decoded from said compressed digital video signal bit stream, said combiner combining said message signal with said video signal for display.

2. The digital apparatus of claim 1, wherein said status message generator is responsive to a tape timer or time code signal.

3. The digital apparatus of claim 1, wherein generation of said message data signal by said status message generator is in response to receipt of a user generated command signal.

4. The digital apparatus of claim 3, further comprising an infrared receiver connected to said status message generator for receiving an infrared signal from a remote control unit, said infrared signal controlling the operating mode of said apparatus.

1 5. A receiving device receiving and decoding compressed digital video signals, said
2 receiver device comprising:

3 a receiving means for receiving and selecting between a first compressed
4 digital video signal from a network source and a second compressed digital video
5 signal and a display message data signal from a local source;

6 a decoder coupled to said receiving means for decoding said selected one of
7 said first and second compressed digital signals to form a video signal ;

8 control means coupled to said receiving means for controlling selection
9 between said first and second compressed digital video signals, and responsive to
10 selection of said second compressed digital video signal, receiving said display
11 message data signal; and

12 means for combining a display message formed from said display message
13 data signal with said video signal decoded from said second compressed digital
14 video signal to generate a combined video signal for display.

1 6. The digital television receiver of claim 5, wherein said second compressed
2 digital television signal is reproduced from a digital recorder.

3 7. The digital television receiver of claim 8, wherein said display message data
4 signal is a recorder status message.

1 8. The digital television receiver of claim 5, further comprising delay means
2 connected to said control means for delaying transmission of said message data
3 signal to said means for combining.

1 9. The digital television receiver of claim 5, wherein said receiver selects between
2 said first compressed digital video signal and second compressed digital video
3 signal responsive a user generated command signal.

- 1 10. The digital television receiver of claimed in claim 9, further comprising an
- 2 infrared receiver connected to said control means for receiving an infrared signal
- 3 from a remote control unit, said infrared signal controlling selection between said
- 4 first compressed digital video signal and second compressed digital video signal.

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